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True Spy Stories In Dulles Anthology

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GREAT TRUE SPY STORIES: Edited by Allen Dulles. Harper & Row. 393 pages. \$6.95.

Because of the swelling attention allotted to espionage in recent years, not just in the "popular press" but in painstaking academic monographs, the materials for a worthwhile anthology of the subject have become abundantly available. It is pleasant to report that this new title by the former director of Central Intelligence takes good advantage of its opportunities.

Though the volume lacks illustrations and an index, its virtues are several.

Mr. Dulles has admitted only those selections (39 in all) whose authors seem to him worthy of credence. He has arranged them topically

under ten headings, marking as many facets of the over-all field of information gathering, e.g., treason, evaluation, scientific intelligence, etc. Though the great bulk of the book features the period during and since World War II, there are sections on the Persian wars and the American Revolution. Backdrops range all the way from Burma to the National Security Agency. Many anticipated names are encountered, such as the valet, "Cicero," in Turkey, or the defector, Philby, in England; but a few less anticipated are here, too, such as Giacomo Casanova or John Honeyman.

Each selection carries an informative preface by Mr. Dulles, and most are of sufficient length as to avoid the quality of scrappiness. In a useful foreword the editor spells out this conception of the ideal spy. He also takes occasion to warn that "it is against the hard rock of prejudice and preconception that our intelligence processes often founder." Multicolored evidences of this truth abound in these (literally) intriguing pages — the most satisfactory compendium of their subject known to the present reviewer.

—CURTIS CARROLL DAVIS.